

Browns Chill Oilers, 13-10 (OT)

A gusty 20 mile-an-hour wind and temperatures in the low 30's were about to have a profound effect on game conditions when the Browns trotted onto the sod of Cleveland Stadium to tackle the Houston Oilers on November 30, 1986.

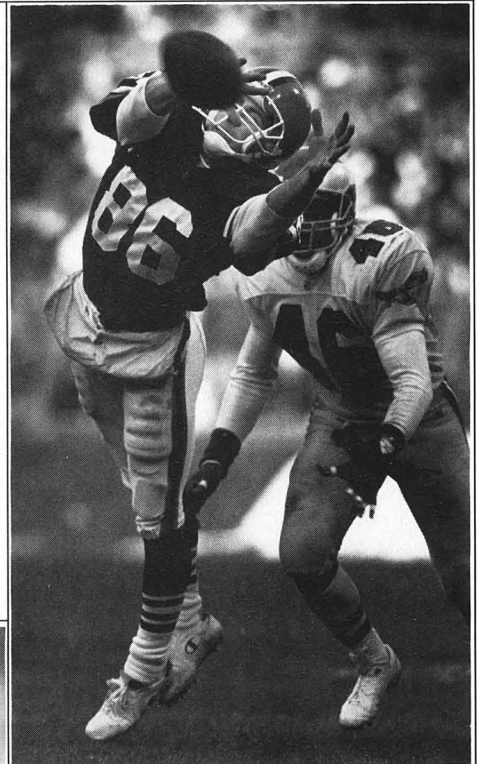
The Oilers, despite a 3-9 record, represented a major hurdle for the 8-4 Browns in their quest for a second straight AFC Central Division title. The Browns couldn't afford to take the Oilers lightly. Fresh in their minds was a hard-fought 23-20 triumph in the Astrodome in the second game of the season.

The Browns had to come from behind by scoring two touchdowns in the final two minutes to take an

emotional and physical contest from the Oilers. They had good reason to expect another strong performance from the Oilers, who had experienced similar losses along the way, including an overtime loss to Pittsburgh.

One week earlier, the Steelers had given the Browns their usual bruising battle at the Stadium, which saw the Browns eke out a 37-31 overtime win. It took a supreme effort to conquer the Steelers, and there was some concern if the bruises and emotions would recover in time for the Houston contest.

A crowd of 62,309 watched as both defenses excelled in a scoreless first half, partly due to the chilling weather conditions that hampered the aerial thrusts of both Bernie Kosar and Warren Moon.



■ Brennan scored on a 35-yarder from Kosar.

Both defenses continued to dominate throughout the second half, but Tony Zendejas put the Oilers ahead, 3-0, on a 47-yard field goal after 1:38 had ticked away in the third quarter.

The Browns weren't able to respond until the fourth quarter. FB-Kevin Mack, the game's leading ground gainer with 121 yards, resembled a wrecking ball smashing through the line, churning out 42 of those yards in a drive that began on the Cleveland 20.

Mack's efforts helped to set-up a 33-yard touchdown pass from Kosar to WR-Brian Brennan, who caught the ball on the Oiler 25. With uncanny instincts, Brennan ducked just as DB-Richard Johnson tried to tackle him high. Brian had a clear path



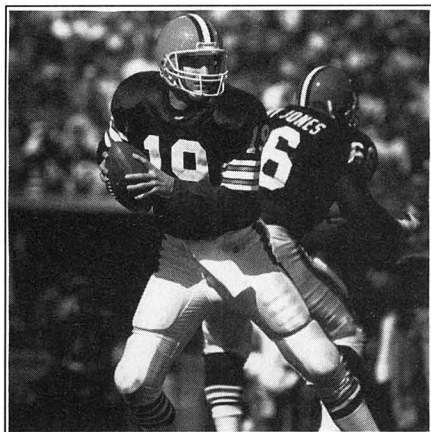
■ Mack gained 121 yards rushing, churning out 42 of them on one drive.

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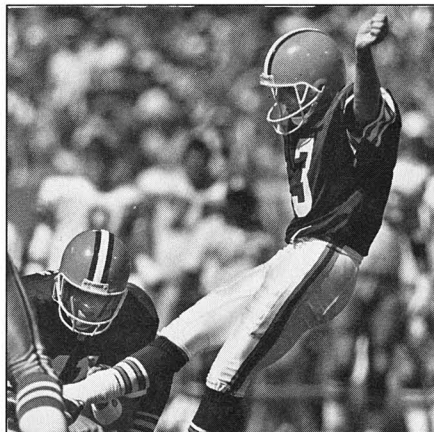
Photo by Gregory Drezdon

Photo by John Reid

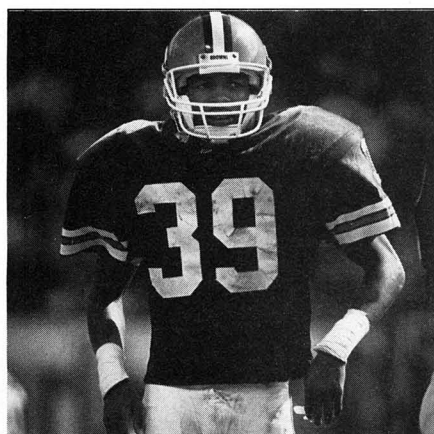
Player of the Game



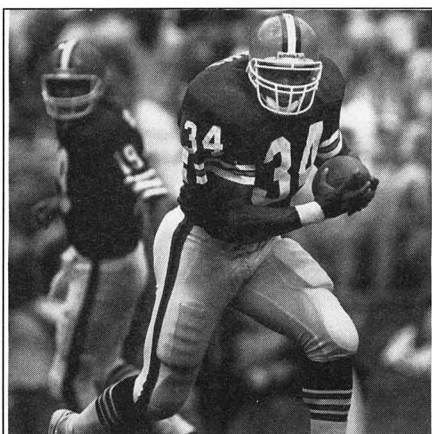
■ QB-Bernie Kosar
Weeks 1, 8, 11



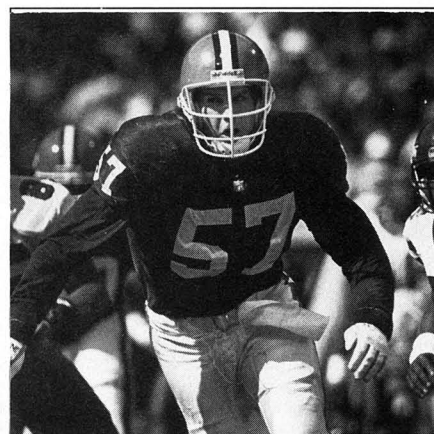
■ K-Matt Stover
Week 3



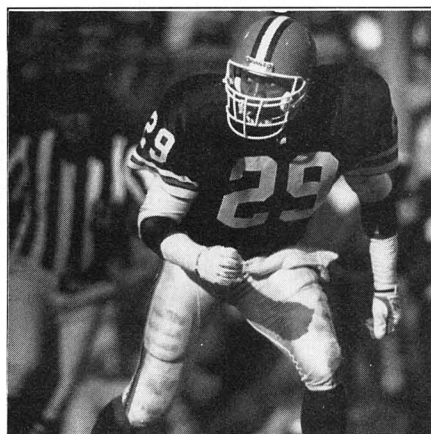
■ CB-Randy Hilliard
Week 2



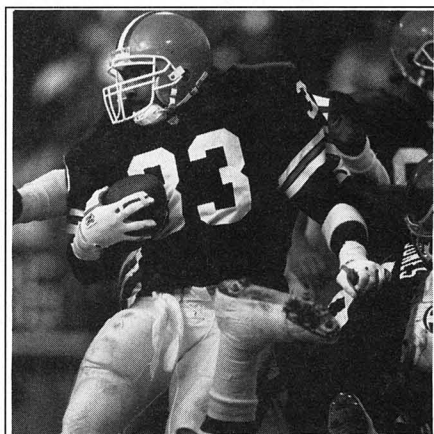
■ FB-Kevin Mack
Weeks 4, 6, 7, 10, 14



■ LB-Clay Matthews
Weeks 9, 15



■ S-Eric Turner
Week 12



■ RB-Leroy Hoard
Week 13

(see page 59 for details)

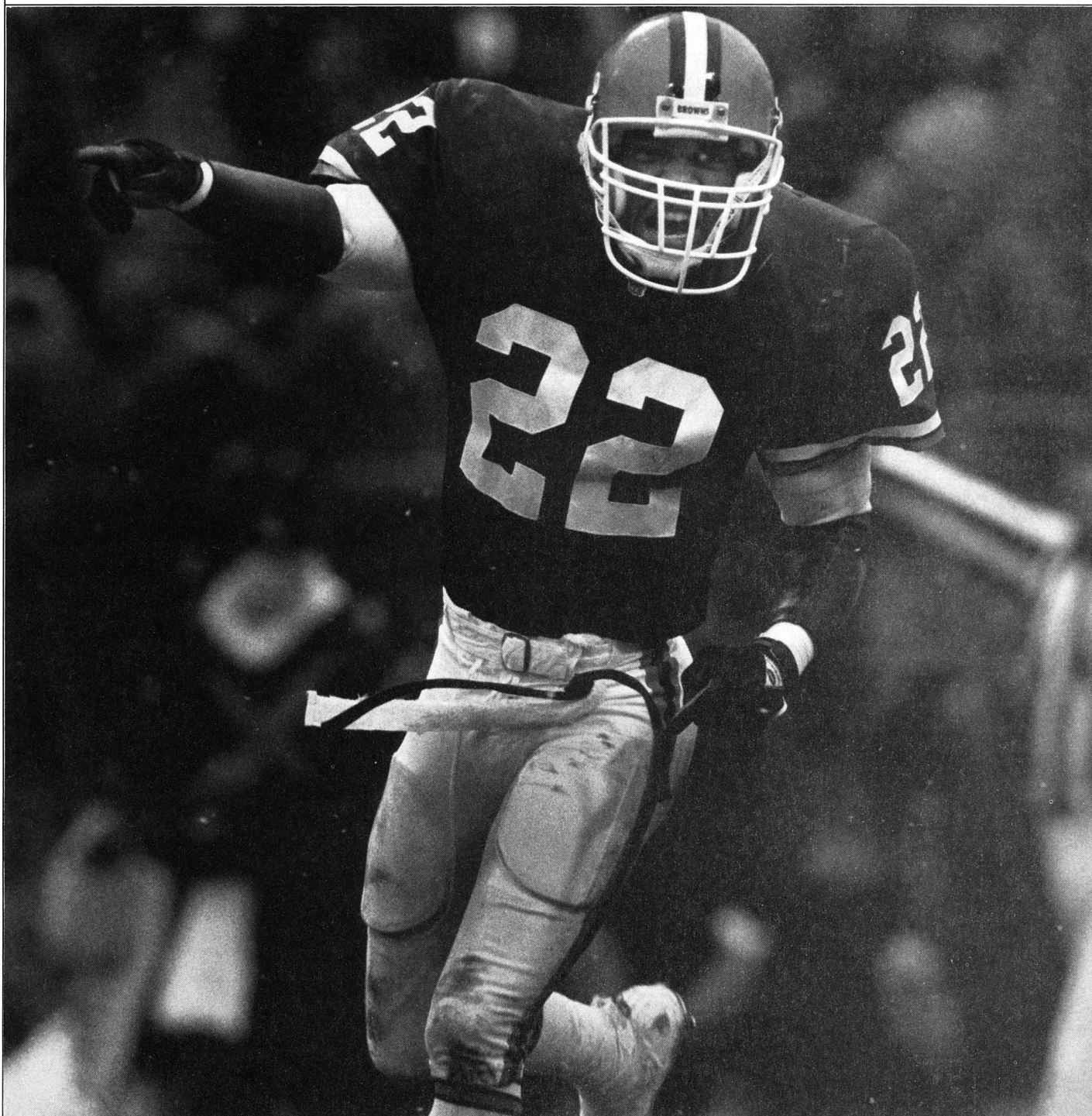
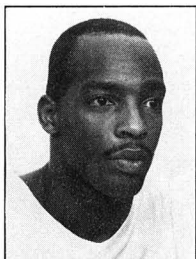


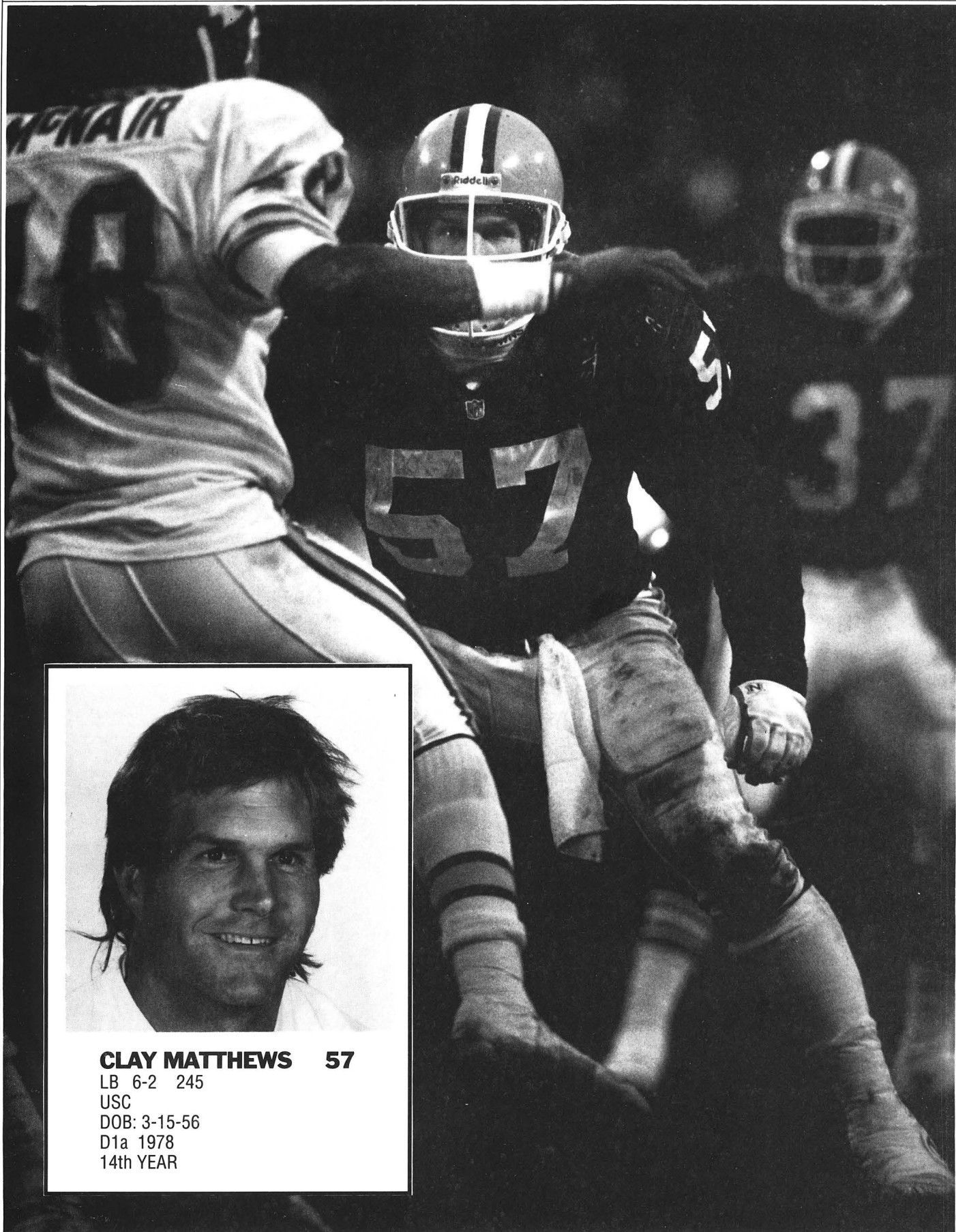
Photo by Gregory Drezdson

Vince Newsome 22 – Safety



6'-1", 186 lbs., 9th Year
Washington
Vacaville (Calif.) H.S.
Born: January 22, 1961
Braintree, England
Free Agent (Unprotected: Rams), 1991

PRO: Veteran safety who signed as an unprotected free agent last March 29 from the L.A. Rams . . . Led the Rams in tackles each of the last two seasons, and three times in last five years . . . Has recorded 12 interceptions and 530 tackles in 110 NFL games, all for the Rams . . . Originally a fourth round selection by Los Angeles in 1983 . . . Recorded a career-high four thefts and five forced fumbles in 1990. ■



CLAY MATTHEWS 57

LB 6-2 245
USC
DOB: 3-15-56
D1a 1978
14th YEAR

Photo by Gregory Drezdorn



Photo by Gregory Drezdson

■ Each home game, at the invitation of Head Coach Bill Belichick, former Browns' wide receiver Reggie Rucker will host former Browns' players as Bill's guests. At the Dec. 8 contest vs. the Denver Broncos, Rucker (far right), hosted former Browns (l. to r.) Jim Houston, Dave Logan, Hanford Dixon and Jim Brown.



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Hard-hitting Rookie "E-Rock" Turning Heads

By Frank Derry

Eric Turner's vicious hits while playing safety at UCLA led many fans, media and scouts to compare him favorably with another pair of ex-Bruin standouts—Kenny Easley and the late Don Rogers.

And since Turner now wears No. 29 for the Browns, he automatically revives memories of all-time Browns' great cornerback Hanford Dixon, who wore that number proudly throughout much of the 1980s.

But Eric Turner, the Browns' No. 1 draft choice in 1991 and the second player selected overall, is intent upon making a name for himself off the field as well, albeit in a much different manner.

"It's an honor to be compared to those players," said the Browns' rookie when likened to Easley and Rogers. "But I have my own style which is different from theirs. It's the way Eric Turner plays the game."

Although he missed half the 1991 season with a stress fracture of his left femur, the 6-1, 207-pound Turner, has quickly made a name for himself around the NFL with his tackling.

"On the field, I want to be mean, vicious, ornery, or whatever you want to call it. I just want to play hard," he said.

Although he'd never intentionally try to hurt anybody, Turner admits to feeling a great deal of satisfaction when he gets a good, clean shot at an opponent. "It excites me to see big hits from a defensive standpoint," he explained.

Of course, he's not the only hard-hitting player in the Browns' defensive backfield. "We have some hitters," he said. "Vince Newsome will lay it on you. So will Harlon Barnett and the other guys."

But the fact is, when Turner took over at safety, he quickly set an example for his teammates. He also rapidly became a fan favorite with his big plays. In his first-ever regular season game for the Browns, Turner laid a hit on Cincinnati Bengals' running back James Brooks that undoubtedly rattled a few teeth.

In his very next game, Turner returned an interception for a touchdown against the Eagles directly in front of the "Dawg Pound."

But while those plays made a lot of TV highlights, Turner admits he needs more consistency.

"I would say my tackling has come along well and my pass defense isn't that bad, but it's definitely not where I want it to be, he added.

"I felt really good coming into the season before my injury. I had time to train. I was sharp and on top of my

game. I had a lot of repetitions."

But Turner suffered an unexpected blow when he was diagnosed as having a stress fracture just prior to the start of the regular season.

Fortunately, Turner had reported to training camp on time and he was able to get thousands of repetitions during camp prior to the injury. Once he healed, it was as if he had never missed a beat.

Yet, Turner, who calls himself, "my own worst critic," knows there definitely is room for improvement.

"There are areas where I need to improve, where I need to be more aware. At times, I'm thinking too much. When you play, you need to know what is going on and what the other team is trying to do. That is

something that only comes with experience."

While Turner is a hard hitter on the field, off the field he is a very humble person, a very religious person, a very dedicated person. He refused to let his big contract and high draft status get in the way of his desire to excel not only as an athlete, but also as a human being.

"I stay as far away from trouble as possible, because trouble is so easy to get into. Trouble finds you. That's why it's safe to stay at home," said Turner, who is dedicated to serving as a role model for youngsters.

"It's important for me to set an example for younger people," Turner said. "I want to show people you can be a successful person and a good person.

"I just want to be the best person I can be." ■



■ Eric Turner

Photo by Gregory Drezdson

Operation Can-Do Ends Dec. 16

On Sunday, Nov. 10, the Philadelphia Eagles traveled to the Lakefront for Week 11 of the regular season. Prior to the contest, a very important event took place outside the Stadium.

The Browns' Wives Association members were at each gate to greet the fans and request a donation to their annual canned food drive. Players' wives wore their husbands' jerseys and the coaches' wives assisted in the collection.

The drive, which was kicked off at the Eagles' contest, is actually a six-week community-wide drive, ending Dec. 16. All canned or non-perishable items will be distributed by the Cleveland Food Basket to Hunger Relief Centers throughout the City of Cleveland.

"Can-Do" collected nearly 75 tons of food and approximately \$8,000 in 1990, which was used to buy additional food for distribution during the holiday season.

Sponsoring the event this year are the Wives Association, The Cleveland Food Basket, Stop 'n' Shop Supermarkets, Elias Brothers Big Boy Restaurants, Shamrock Movers, Fox-Nineteen WOIO-TV and WMMS (100.7) FM.

Fans will be able to meet and get autographs of some of their favorite Browns and their wives at their local Stop 'n' Shop and Elias Brothers locations, and at the same time, drop off their donations. ■



Photo by Gregory Drezdson

■ Some of the Browns' Wives Association members participating in Operation Can-Do pose for a team picture. Third row, from left to right: Babette Kosar, Zondra Brandon, Diana Logan, Ava Mack, Jackie Blackmon, Linda Morris, Joyce Mitchell, Eileen Hunter. Second row: Tasha Newsome, Wendy Harris, Cindy (Oliphant), Renita Pleasant, Karen Fike, Lolis Baab, Tammy Rienstra, Ingrid Douglas, Laurie Hansen. First row: Kamilla Orr-Jones (Tony), Brenda Harper, Diane Minnifield, Bethany Brennan, Lorie Kinchen, Kathy Francis, and Debbie Stover.

WMMS
100.7 FM



■ WMMS, Fox 19, Shamrock Movers and the Cleveland Browns Wives Association invite you to take part in "Operation Can-Do" to benefit the Cleveland Food Basket. "Operation Can-Do" kicked off Sunday, November 10th with a canned food collection at the Browns/Eagles game. You can also drop off food at all Stop 'n' Shop Super-markets and at all Elias Brothers Restaurants until December 16th. Please help . . . food collected will be distributed by the Cleveland Food Basket to the Hunger Relief Centers throughout the North Coast.